

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 19-29 and amend claim 10. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of the aforementioned claim amendment. The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings in this case.

1.     **(Original)**     A coupler comprising:  
                          an optical fiber receiving structure; and  
                          a fiber stop attached to said receiving structure; and  
                          wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction approximately the same as the index of  
                          refraction of a core of said optical fiber.
2.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a window.
3.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a glass material.
4.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.
5.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a lens.
6.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.
7.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.
8.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.
9.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

10. **(Currently amended)** A means for coupling comprising:  
means for receiving an optical fiber;  
means for stopping a received optical fiber, ~~attached to said means for receiving an optical fiber;~~  
and  
wherein said means for stopping a received optical fiber has implements an index of refraction approximately equal to an index of refraction of the received optical fiber.
11. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a window.
12. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a glass material.
13. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.
14. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a lens.
15. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.
16. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.
17. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.
18. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.
19. – 29. **(Canceled)**
30. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:  
a sleeve;  
a window situated at a first end of said sleeve;  
and a lens situated at a surface of said window opposite of a surface of said window proximate to said sleeve.

31.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 30, wherein:  
          said sleeve has a diameter so that an optical fiber can be inserted with an end stopped by the  
surface of said window proximate to said sleeve; and  
          said window has an index of refraction about the same as the index of refraction of optical fiber.
32.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is a ball lens.
33.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is formed on the surface of said  
window.
34.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a light source proximate to said lens.